

Application Serial No. 09/817,567  
Attorney Docket No. 060879-0006  
(formerly 11299-006-999)

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1-23 (Cancelled)

24 (Currently Amended): A microlancet device for obtaining a sample of blood or other bodily fluid through the skin of a subject, comprising;

an elongated single crystal silicon substrate having a base end and a penetration end;

a base portion formed at the base end of the silicon substrate for permitting the device to be retained during penetration and sampling; and

a penetration portion formed at the penetration end of the silicon substrate, extending laterally from the base portion of the silicon substrate, terminating in a sharp point with a continuous cutting profile for easily piercing and penetrating the skin of the subject in order to obtain a sample of blood or other bodily fluid while inflicting minimum pain on the subject.

25 (Currently amended): The device of Claim 24, wherein the penetration portion has a thickness cross-section dimension and a width cross-section dimension, at least one of which tapers towards the penetration end to form the sharp point.

26 (Currently amended): The device of Claim 25, wherein the ~~thickness~~ width cross-section dimension of the penetration portion extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers excluding the sharp point, and the ~~width~~ thickness cross-section dimension extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers ~~excluding the sharp point~~.

27 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 26, wherein the penetration end of the silicon substrate has a length of from about 1 millimeter to about 3 millimeters.

28 (Cancelled).

29 (Cancelled).

30 (Cancelled)

31 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 25, wherein the width cross-section dimension of the penetration portion terminates in a chisel-shaped point at the penetration end.

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32 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 24 wherein the penetration portion has a width cross-section that tapers from a larger cross-section dimension at the base end toward a smaller cross-section dimension at the penetration end.

33 (Currently amended): The device of Claim 32 wherein the width cross-section dimension of the penetration portion extends from about 250 micrometers to about 50 micrometers, excluding the sharp point.

34 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 24 wherein the penetration portion has a thickness cross-section dimension from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers.

35 (Cancelled):

36 (Currently amended): A microlancet device for obtaining a sample of blood or other bodily fluid through the skin of a subject, comprising;

an elongated single crystal silicon substrate having a base end and a penetration end;

a base portion formed at the base end of the silicon substrate for permitting the device to be retained during penetration and sampling; and

a penetration portion formed at the penetration end of the silicon substrate, extending laterally from the base portion of the silicon substrate, and terminating in a sharp point with a continuous cutting profile for easily piercing and penetrating the skin of the subject in order to obtain a sample of blood or other bodily fluid while inflicting minimum pain on the subject, the penetration portion tapering from the base portion toward the point.

37 (Currently amended): The device of Claim 36 wherein the penetration end of the silicon substrate has a ~~length from about 1 millimeter to about 3 millimeters~~ thickness cross-section dimension of at least about 25 micrometers.

38 (Currently amended): A microlancet device for obtaining a sample of blood or other bodily fluid through the skin of a subject, comprising;

an elongated single crystal silicon substrate having a base end and a penetration end;

a base portion formed at the base end of the silicon substrate for permitting the device to be retained during penetration and sampling; and

a penetration portion having a smooth continuous profile formed at the penetration end of the silicon substrate and terminating in a sharp point with a continuous cutting profile

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for easily piercing and penetrating the skin of the subject in order to obtain a sample of blood or other bodily fluid while inflict minimum pain on the subject, the penetration end having a having a thickness cross-section dimension of at least about 25 micrometers.

39 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 38 wherein the penetration portion has a thickness cross-section dimension and a width cross-section dimension, at least one of which tapers towards the penetration end to form a sharp point.

40 (Currently amended): The device of Claim 39 wherein the ~~thickness~~ width cross-section of the penetration ~~point~~ portion extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers excluding the sharp point, and the ~~width~~ thickness cross-section dimension extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers ~~excluding the sharp point~~.

41 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 39, wherein the width cross-section of the penetration point terminates in a chisel-shaped point at the penetration end.

42 (New): The device of Claim 36 wherein the penetration end of the silicon substrate has a thickness cross-section dimension of at least about 50 micrometers at the penetration end of the sharp point.

43 (New): The device of Claim 42 wherein the penetration portion has a thickness cross-section dimension from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers.

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